

**ABSTRACT**

Compounds, compositions and methods are provided for inhibiting the expression of human STAT3. The compositions  
5 comprise antisense oligonucleotides targeted to nucleic acids encoding STAT3. Methods of using these oligonucleotides for inhibition of STAT3 expression and for promotion of apoptosis are provided. Methods for treatment of diseases, particularly inflammatory diseases and  
10 cancers, associated with overexpression or constitutive activation of STAT3 or insufficient apoptosis are also provided.